

Application No. 09/346,884

Amendment dated November 10, 2003

Reply to Office Action of August 8, 2003

**Amendments To the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A router device for use in a communication system having  
2 at least two telephone devices in communications with each other for transferring voice  
3 information therebetween through a packet switching network, the router device being  
4 coupled between one of the telephone devices and the packet switching network and for  
5 performing one of a plurality of types of compression/decompression (codec) operation  
6 on information being transferred between the telephone devices comprising:  
7 a Digital Signal Processor (DSP) module responsive to an analog telephone signal from  
8 one of the telephone devices and operative to convert the analog telephone signal to a digital  
9 telephone signal and further operative to packetize the digital telephone signal for  
10 transmission to a remotely-located router device, the router device and the remotely-located  
11 device initially mutually negotiating to utilize a first type of codec[,] and during  
12 communications between the remotely-located router device and the DSP module, the DSP  
13 module for renegotiating the use of a second type of codec and switching from using said  
14 first type of codec to using said second type of codec upon detection of degradation in the  
15 quality of the voice information,  
16 wherein, during communications between the remotely-located router device and the  
17 DSP module, the type of codec being utilized is repeatedly, mutually, renegotiated to  
18 dynamically change compression techniques to adjust for network usage thereby optimizing  
19 the use of network capacity and throughput and further wherein switching between the  
20 codecs is performed while a conversation is taking place between the two telephone devices  
21 yet avoiding substantial disturbance to users of the telephone devices.

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1 Claim 2 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 1 wherein switching  
2 between the codecs is initiated by a user of one of the telephone devices.

1 Claim 3 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 2 wherein a  
2 predetermined code is assigned to correspond to each codec wherein the user specifies the  
3 type of codec to be switched to by entering the predetermined code corresponding to a  
4 desired codec into one of the user telephone devices.

1 Claim 4 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 3 wherein the  
2 predetermined code is programmably-alterable.

1 Claim 5 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 1 wherein upon  
2 detecting lower bandwidth available on the packet switching network for transmitting  
3 packet therethrough, the router device for switching from a codec resulting in the use of  
4 larger packet sizes to a codec resulting in smaller packet sizes.

1 Claim 6 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 5 wherein the router  
2 device for automatically detecting the lower bandwidth.

1 Claim 7 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 1 wherein upon  
2 detecting higher bandwidth available on the packet switching network for transmitting  
3 packet therethrough, the router device for switching from a codec resulting in the use of  
4 smaller packet sizes to a codec resulting in higher packet sizes.

1 Claim 8 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 5 wherein the router  
2 device for automatically detecting the higher bandwidth.

1 Claim 9 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 1 wherein the  
2 remotely-located router device detects the degradation in the quality of the voice  
3 information.

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1           Claim 10 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 1 wherein the  
2           degradation in the quality of the voice information is due to loss of one or more packets.

3           Claim 11 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 10 wherein a  
4           threshold defines the number of lost packets that are tolerated triggering a decision to  
5           switch to the second type of codec.

1           Claim 12 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 11 wherein a  
2           plurality of packets form a message and each packet includes a sequence number  
3           indicative of the position of the packet with respect to other packets in the same message,  
4           the sequence numbers of the same message being in sequential order wherein a loss of  
5           packets is detected when one or more sequence numbers are missing from the received  
6           packets of the same message.

1           Claim 13 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 1 wherein the  
2           degradation in the quality of the voice information is due to an intolerable delay  
3           associated with the time for a packet to travel between the router device and the remotely-  
4           located router device.

1           Claim 14 (previously presented): A router device for use in a communication system  
2           having a first telephone device for causing the transmission of voice conversations and a first  
3           fax machine coupled to the router device, the router device responsive to telephone signals,  
4           carrying voice conversations, generated by the first telephone device and fax signals  
5           generated by the first fax machine and operative to transfer digital information, through a  
6           packet switching network, to a remotely-located router coupled to a second telephone device  
7           for receiving the voice conversations and a second fax machine comprising:  
8                 a DSP module for carrying a user-initiated telephone conversation on a  
9           telephone line connecting the first telephone device and the second telephone device  
10          through the packet switching network, the DSP module further responsive to analog fax  
11          signals from the first fax machine and further operative to convert the analog fax signals

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12 to digital fax signals and to packetized the digital fax signals for transmission, through the  
13 packet switching network, to the second fax machine,  
14 wherein the fax transmission from the first fax machine to the second fax machine  
15 takes place on the telephone line causing a temporary interruption to the telephone  
16 conversation thereby avoiding the need for telephone connection to be disconnected prior  
17 to the fax transmission.

1 Claim 15 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 14 wherein a fax  
2 overlay is transferred between the router device and the remotely-located router prior to  
3 transmission of fax information therebetween.

1 Claim 16 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 14 wherein the  
2 router device is further operative to detect a fax tone prior to transmission of the fax  
3 information and upon completion of the fax transmission the router device is operative to  
4 resume the telephone conversation.

1 Claim 17 (presently amended): A method for use in a communication system having at  
2 least two telephone devices in communications with each other for transferring voice  
3 information therebetween through a packet switching network, the router device being  
4 coupled between one of the telephone devices and the packet switching network and for  
5 performing one of a plurality of types of compression/decompression (codec) operation on  
6 information being transferred between the telephone devices comprising:  
7 receiving an analog telephone signal through a telephone connection from one of the  
8 telephone devices;  
9 converting the analog telephone signal to a digital telephone signal;  
10 separating information carried on the digital telephone signal into packets of  
11 information;  
12 initially, mutually, negotiating a first type of codec for communication between the  
13 telephone devices;

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14 using a first type of codec for transferring the packets of information between the two  
15 telephone devices through the packet switching network;  
16 during communication between the telephone devices, renegotiating the use of a  
17 second type of codec;  
18 switching to using said second type of codec upon detection of degradation in the  
19 quality of the voice information during the course of the telephone connection; and  
20 during communication between the telephone devices, upon further detection of  
21 degradation in the quality of the voice information, repeatedly renegotiating to  
22 dynamically change compression techniques to adjust for network usage thereby  
23 optimizing the use of network capacity and throughput.

1 Claim 18 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 1 wherein the codec  
2 negotiation is performed pursuant to the H.245 protocol.

1 Claim 19 (previously presented): A router device as recited in claim 1 wherein the first type  
2 of codec utilizes a compression/decompression algorithm defined by any one of the standards:  
3 G.711, G.726, G.729 or G.723.1 and the second type of codec utilizes a  
4 compression/decompression algorithm defined by any one of the standards: G.711, G.726,  
5 G.729 or G.723.1.

1 20. A router device as recited in claim 14 wherein the connections are established  
2 pursuant to the H.225 protocol.